

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Final Office Action of October 13, 2009, claims 1-8 and 10-15 are allowed. Additionally, claims 16 and 20 are rejected. Furthermore, claims 18 and 19 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, Applicants propose amending claims 16, 19 and 20 and canceling claim 18. Applicants respectfully request that the amendments be entered to put the claims in condition for allowance. Applicants hereby request reconsideration of the application in view of the proposed amendments and the below-provided remarks.

Allowed Claims

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's review of and determination that claims 1-8 and 10-15 are allowed.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's review of and determination that claims 18 and 19 recite allowable subject matter. In particular, the Final Office Action states that claims 18 and 19 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In response, Applicants propose amending claim 16 to include all of the limitations of claim 18. Because claim 18 recites allowable subject matter and amended claim 16 includes all of the limitations of claim 18, Applicants respectfully assert that amended claim 16 is now in condition for allowance. Additionally, Applicants propose canceling claim 18 and amending claims 19 and 20 to accommodate the proposed amendments to claim 16 and/or correct minor informalities. Claims 19 and 20 depend from and incorporate all of the limitations of independent claim 16. Thus, Applicants respectfully assert that claims 19 and 20 are allowable at least based on an allowable claim 16.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully assert that all of the pending claims 1-8, 10-16, 19 and 20 are now in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the claims in view of the proposed amendments and the remarks made herein. A notice of allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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